

REMARKS

A CHANGE IN ELECTION IS DESIRED. Applicants would like to elect the claims of Group II, Claims 3-7, 13 and 14, identified in the Office Action dated December 19, 2001, for prosecution in the subjection application. Hence, claims 1, 2, and 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of this preliminary amendment, and claims 3-7, 13, and 14 are pending for consideration in this divisional application.

The specification has also been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been introduced.

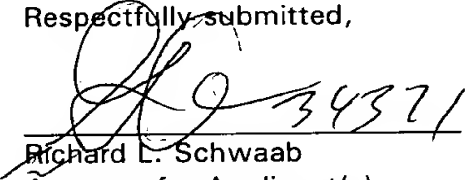
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the divisional application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

December 16, 2002
Date

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Respectfully submitted,


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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The paragraph starting on page 21, line 15, bridging pages 21 and 22:

The sound transmission loss test was conducted as follows: The test was to measure a sound transmission loss by using two reverberation rooms, according to JIS (Japanese Industrial Standard) – [K1416] A1416. First, the samples (interior material) prepared according to Examples, Earlier Technology, and Comparative Examples were formed to be uniform in surface density. Then, an aluminum plate having a thickness of 1 mm and a synthetic resin (polymer) layer having a density of 4.0 kg/m² were laminated on each sample (interior material) in such a manner that the sample was located between the aluminum plate and the resin layer, thus preparing [an] a laminated structure. This laminated structure was sealingly set between a sound source-side reverberation room (in which a sound source or speaker was located) and a measurement-side reverberation room, in which the aluminum plate was located at the side of the sound source-side reverberation room while the resin layer was located at the side of the measurement-side reverberation room. In this state, a sound pressure generated from the speaker in the sound source-side reverberation room was measured by a sound source-side microphone, while sound transmitted through the laminated structure was measured by a measurement-side microphone located in the measurement-side reverberation room thereby to obtain a sound pressure of sound passed through the sample (interior material). The sound transmission loss of the laminated structure (including the sample) was obtained by the difference between the sound pressure in the sound source-side reverberation room and the sound pressure in the measurement-side reverberation room. The result of this test is shown in Table 1 in which the evaluation “A” represents the sound transmission loss (the mean value of a plurality of values measured at frequencies ranging from 100 to 6300 Hz) which was improved by not lower than + 1dB relative to that of the Earlier Technology 1; the evaluation “B” represents the sound transmission loss which was improved by a range from + 1dB to – 1dB relative to that of the Earlier Technology 1; and the evaluation “C” represents the sound transmission loss which was improved by not higher than – 1dB (or degraded by not lower than 1 dB) relative to that of the Earlier Technology 1.